

REGULATORY COMMITTEE

CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

MINUTES of a meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel held on 23 April 2010 at 10.00am at County Hall, Lewes

PRESENT: Councillors Waite (Chairman), Belsey, Hughes, O’Keeffe, Ost and St Pierre

ALSO PRESENT Councillor Stroude, Lead Member for Children and Families
Teresa Lavelle-Hill, Head of Looked After Children (LAC) Services
Liz Rugg, Assistant Director, Children and Families
Carole Sykes, Operations Manager, Adoption and Permanence

Graham Beal, Unit Manager, Broderick House and Homefield Cottage
Tina Darby, East Sussex Foster Care Association
Steve Hunt, Operations Manager, The Fostering Service
Anthony Julyan, Operations Manager, Sorrel Drive
Janet Osborne, Unit Manager, Acorns
Diane Saunders, Deputy Manager, Hazel Lodge
Helen Simmons, Unit Manager, Sorrel Drive
Martin Sutcliffe, Unit Manager, Lansdowne Secure Unit
Simon Treen, Deputy Manager, Rose Cottage
Ben Vince, East Sussex Foster Care Association

29. MINUTES

29.1 RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2010 as a correct records.

30. REPORTS

30.1 Copies of the reports referred to below are included in the minute book.

31. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

31.1 Councillor Livings.

32. ACTION PLAN OF EAST SUSSEX FOSTER CARE ASSOCIATION 1 APRIL 2009 – 31 MARCH 2014

32.1 The Panel considered a report by the Director of Children’s Services which presented the Action Plan of the East Sussex Foster Care Association. Ben Vince and Tina Darby of the Association updated the Panel with reports of funding bids, events held in the past year and set out forthcoming events and programmes.

32.2 Concern was raised with regard to children being involved in bids for external funding. The Head of LAC Services advised the Panel that this was an agenda driven by the Government.

32.3 RESOLVED to note the report and support the Action Plan and to thank the Association for their work and commitment.

33. ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT OF THE EAST SUSSEX FOSTERING SERVICE 1 APRIL 2009 – 31 MARCH 2010

33.1 The Panel considered a report by the Director of Children's Services.

33.2 RESOLVED to note the report.

34. ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT OF THE EAST SUSSEX ADOPTION AND PERMANENCE SERVICE 1 APRIL 2009 – 31 MARCH 2010

34.1 The Panel considered a report by the Director of Children's Services.

34.2 The quality and cost of independent consultants' expert reports in adoption proceedings was discussed. The Assistant Director, Children and Families advised the Panel that the cost of the reports was shared between the parties and that a move towards a preferred provider scheme was being considered.

34.3 The Head of LAC Services updated the Panel on the recruitment of social workers.

34.4 The Operations Manager, Adoption and Permanence said that she would, on behalf of the Corporate Parenting Panel, thank the independent members of the Adoption Panels for their work at their next business meeting.

34.5 RESOLVED to note the report.

35. LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN STATISTICS

35.1 The Panel considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which outlined changes to the statistics in the last quarter. The Panel was advised that there had been a rise of 49 looked after children, not 53 as stated at paragraph 2.2 of the report (page 35 of the agenda).

35.2 RESOLVED to note the report.

36. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

36.1 RESOLVED to exclude the public and press from the meeting for the remaining items on the grounds that if the public and press were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as specified in category 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), namely information relating to any individual. It is considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

37. OFSTED INSPECTION REPORTS

37.1 The Panel considered the following Ofsted Inspection Reports:

- Acorns at Dorset Road
- Broderick House
- Hazel Lodge
- Lansdowne Secure Unit
- Rose Cottage

37.2 RESOLVED to note the inspection reports.

38. CHILDREN'S HOME REGULATIONS 1991, REGULATION 33: INSPECTION REPORTS

38.1 The Panel considered inspection reports for January and February 2010 for the following children's homes:

- (i) Broderick House
- (ii) Acorns at Dorset Road
- (iii) Hazel Lodge
- (iv) Homefield Cottage
- (v) Lansdowne Secure Unit
- (vi) Rose Cottage
- (vii) The Bungalow, Sorrel Drive

38.2 RESOLVED to note the reports.